

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 14 and 15 are independent claims. By this preliminary amendment, claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 15 are amended to correct minor informalities contained therein.

In amended Figures 8-10(b), the label is "Conventional Art" is added to the figures. Applicants respectfully request that the corrected drawing be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Carolyn T. Baumgardner (Reg. No. 41,345) at (703) 205-8000 **to schedule a Personal Interview.**

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment from or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional

Filed: March 26, 2004

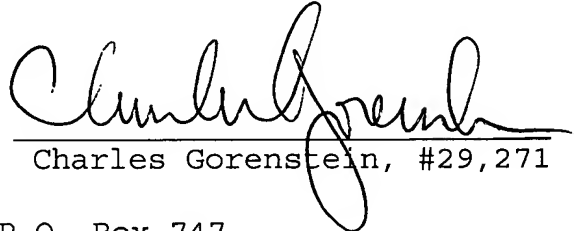
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fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17;  
particularly, the extension of time fees.


Respectfully submitted,

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By

  
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CG/CTB/mpe  
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Attachment(s): Three (3) replacement drawing sheets of Figs. 8-10(b)